

Chapter 10

MOVING WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE AND PORTABILITY

INTRODUCTION

Freedom of housing choice is a hallmark of the housing choice voucher (HCV) program. In general, HUD regulations impose few restrictions on where families may live or move with HCV assistance. This chapter sets forth HUD regulations and PHA policies governing moves within or outside the PHA's jurisdiction in two parts:

Part I: Moving with Continued Assistance. This part covers the general rules that apply to all moves by a family assisted under the PHA's HCV program, whether the family moves to another unit within the PHA's jurisdiction or to a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability.

Part II: Portability. This part covers the special rules that apply to moves by a family under portability, whether the family moves out of or into the PHA's jurisdiction. This part also covers the special responsibilities that the PHA has under portability regulations and procedures.

PART I: MOVING WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE

10-I.A. ALLOWABLE MOVES

HUD lists five regulatory conditions and the statutory condition under VAWA in which an assisted family is allowed to move to a new unit with continued assistance. Permission to move is subject to the restrictions set forth in section 10-I.B.

- The family has a right to terminate the lease on notice to the owner (for the owner's breach or otherwise) and has given a notice of termination to the owner in accordance with the lease [24 CFR 982.314(b)(3)]. If the family terminates the lease on notice to the owner, the family must give the PHA a copy of the notice at the same time [24 CFR 982.314(d)(1)].
- The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 provides that "a family may receive a voucher from a public housing agency and move to another jurisdiction under the tenant-based assistance program if the family has complied with all other obligations of the section 8 program and has moved out of the assisted dwelling unit in order to protect the health or safety of an individual who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and who reasonably believed he or she was imminently threatened by harm from further violence if he or she remained in the assisted dwelling unit" [24 CFR 982.353(b)].
- The lease for the family's unit has been terminated by mutual agreement of the owner and the family [24 CFR 982.314(b)(1)(ii)].

MSHDA Policy

If the family and the owner mutually agree to terminate the lease for the family's unit, the family must give MSHDA a copy of the termination agreement.

- The owner has given the family a notice to vacate, has commenced an action to evict the family, or has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the

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family [24 CFR 982.314(b)(2)]. The family must give the PHA a copy of any owner eviction notice [24 CFR 982.551(g)].

- The PHA has terminated the assisted lease for the family's unit for the owner's breach [24 CFR 982.314(b)(1)(i)].
- The PHA determines that the family's current unit does not meet the HQS space standards because of an increase in family size or a change in family composition. In such cases, the PHA must issue the family a new voucher, and the family and PHA must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for the family, the PHA must terminate the HAP contract for the family's old unit in accordance with the HAP contract terms and must notify both the family and the owner of the termination. The HAP contract terminates at the end of the calendar month that follows the calendar month in which the PHA gives notice to the owner. [24 CFR 982.403(a) and (c)]

10-I.B. RESTRICTIONS ON MOVES

A family's right to move is generally contingent upon the family's compliance with program requirements [24 CFR 982.1(b)(2)]. HUD specifies two conditions under which a PHA may deny a family permission to move and two ways in which a PHA may restrict moves by a family.

Denial of Moves

HUD regulations permit the PHA to deny a family permission to move under the following conditions:

Insufficient Funding

The PHA may deny a family permission to move either within or outside the PHA's jurisdiction if the PHA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance [24 CFR 982.314(e)(1)]. However, Notice PIH 2012-42 significantly restricts the ability of PHAs to deny permission to move due to insufficient funding and places further requirements on PHAs regarding moves denied due to lack of funding. The requirements found in this notice are mandatory.

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will deny a family permission to move on grounds that MSHDA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance if (a) the move is initiated by the family, not the owner or MSHDA; (b) MSHDA can demonstrate that the move will, in fact, result in higher subsidy costs; and (c) MSHDA can demonstrate, in accordance with the policies in Part VIII of Chapter 16, that it does not have sufficient funding in its annual budget to accommodate the higher subsidy costs.

MSHDA will inform the family of its policy regarding moves denied due to insufficient funding in a letter to the family at the time the move is denied. Information will be included in the letter on steps the family can take to initiate a move when funding is available.

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Grounds for Denial or Termination of Assistance

The PHA may deny a family permission to move if it has grounds for denying or terminating the family's assistance [24 CFR 982.314(e)(2)].

MSHDA Policy

If MSHDA has grounds for denying or terminating a family's assistance, MSHDA will act on those grounds in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth in Chapters 3 and 12, respectively. In general, it will not deny a family permission to move for this reason; however, it retains the discretion to do so under special circumstances.

Restrictions on Elective Moves [24 CFR 982.314(c)]

HUD regulations permit the PHA to prohibit any elective move by a participant family during the family's initial lease term. They also permit the PHA to prohibit more than one elective move by a participant family during any 12-month period. However, such prohibitions, if adopted, do not apply when the family or a member of the family is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and the move is needed to protect the health or safety of the family or family member. (For the policy on documentation of abuse, see section 10-1.A.) In addition, the PHA may not establish a policy permitting moves only at reexamination [Notice PIH 2012-42].

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will deny a family permission to make an elective move during the family's initial lease term. This policy applies to moves within MSHDA's jurisdiction or outside it under portability.

MSHDA will also deny a family permission to make more than one elective move during any 12-month period. This policy applies to all assisted families residing in the MSHDA's jurisdiction.

MSHDA will consider exceptions to these policies for the following reasons: to protect the health or safety of a family member (e.g., lead-based paint hazards, domestic violence, witness protection programs), to accommodate a change in family circumstances (e.g., new employment, school attendance in a distant area), or to address an emergency situation over which a family has no control.

In addition, MSHDA will allow exceptions to these policies for purposes of reasonable accommodation of a family member who is a person with disabilities (see Chapter 2).

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10-I.C. MOVING PROCESS

Notification

If a family wishes to move to a new unit, the family must notify the PHA and the owner before moving out of the old unit or terminating the lease on notice to the owner [24 CFR 982.314(d)(2)]. If the family wishes to move to a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability, the notice to the PHA must specify the area where the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.314(d)(2), Notice PIH 2012-42]. The notices must be in writing [24 CFR 982.5].

Approval

MSHDA Policy

Upon receipt of a family's notification that it wishes to move, MSHDA will determine whether the move is approvable in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth in sections 10-I.A and 10-I.B. MSHDA will notify the family in writing of its determination within 10 business days following receipt of the family's notification. A family's notification to move includes a written notice to vacate (minimum 30-day notice is required); and all documents requested from the participant and landlord by MSHDA which are necessary to determine eligibility to move including a determination of good standing.

Good standing with MSHDA is determined by MSHDA reviewing the following:

- 1) The participant is current on their payments toward any MSHDA repayment agreements or accounts receivable debt.
- 2) Criminal and Sex Offender Screenings
- 3) Verifies that the family is not violating any family obligations under the voucher that may result in program termination.

Good standing with the landlord is determined by MSHDA contacting the landlord and verifying the participant family:

- 1) has not violated the terms and conditions of the lease
- 2) is not delinquent in rental payments to the landlord
- 3) is not delinquent in utility bills which would become the responsibility of the landlord upon participant move-out
- 4) has not caused damage to the unit above normal wear and tear and beyond what the security deposit would pay.

Reexamination of Family Income and Composition

MSHDA Policy

For families moving into or families approved to move out of MSHDA's jurisdiction under portability, MSHDA will follow the policies set forth in Part II of this chapter.

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Voucher Issuance and Briefing

MSHDA Policy

For families approved to move to a new unit within MSHDA's jurisdiction, MSHDA will issue a new voucher within 10 business days of MSHDA's written approval to move. No briefing is required for these families. MSHDA will follow the policies set forth in Chapter 5 on voucher term, extension, and expiration. If a family does not locate a new unit within the term of the voucher and any extensions, the family may remain in its current unit with continued voucher assistance if the owner agrees and MSHDA approves. Otherwise, the family will lose its assistance.

For families moving into or families approved to move out of the MSHDA's jurisdiction under portability, MSHDA will follow the policies set forth in Part II of this chapter.

Housing Assistance Payments [24 CFR 982.311(d)]

When a family moves out of an assisted unit, the PHA may not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month **after** the month the family moves out. The owner may keep the housing assistance payment for the month when the family moves out of the unit.

If a participant family moves from an assisted unit with continued tenant-based assistance, the term of the assisted lease for the new assisted unit may begin during the month the family moves out of the first assisted unit. Overlap of the last housing assistance payment (for the month when the family moves out of the old unit) and the first assistance payment for the new unit, is not considered to constitute a duplicative housing subsidy.

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA does not pay subsidy for two units at one time without a waiver from MSHDA staff. If the move-out date overlaps with a move-in date, duplicate payments will not be made without a waiver from MSHDA staff to allow for the dual payment.

PART II: PORTABILITY

10-II.A. OVERVIEW

Within the limitations of the regulations and this plan, a participant family or an applicant family that has been issued a voucher has the right to use tenant-based voucher assistance to lease a unit anywhere in the United States providing that the unit is located within the jurisdiction of a PHA administering a tenant-based voucher program [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. The process by which a family obtains a voucher from one PHA and uses it to lease a unit in the jurisdiction of another PHA is known as portability. The first PHA is called the **initial PHA**. The second is called the **receiving PHA**.

The receiving PHA has the option of administering the family's voucher for the initial PHA or absorbing the family into its own program. Under the first option, the receiving PHA bills the initial PHA for the family's housing assistance payments and the fees for administering the

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family's voucher. Under the second option, the receiving PHA pays for the family's assistance out of its own program funds, and the initial PHA has no further relationship with the family.

The same PHA commonly acts as the initial PHA for some families and as the receiving PHA for others. Each role involves different responsibilities. MSHDA will follow the rules and policies in section 10-II.B when it is acting as the initial PHA for a family. It will follow the rules and policies in section 10-II.C when it is acting as the receiving PHA for a family.

The initial PHA must reimburse the receiving PHA for the lesser of 80% of the initial PHA's administrative fee or 100% of the receiving PHA's administrative fee. If the administrative fees are prorated for the HCV program due to insufficient administrative fee funding, the proration will apply to the amount of the administrative fee for which the receiving PHA may bill the initial PHA (e.g. the receiving PHA may bill for the lesser of 80% of the initial PHA's prorated ongoing administrative fee or 100% of the receiving PHA's prorated ongoing administrative fee). [24 CFR 982.355(e)(3)]

10-II.B. INITIAL PHA ROLE

Allowable Moves under Portability

PHA policies on family moves must be consistent with civil rights laws and regulations [24 CFR 982.354(c)(2)].

The initial PHA must determine the family's eligibility to move in accordance with 24 CFR 982.353 and 982.354 [24 CFR 982.355(c)(2)].

A family may move with voucher assistance only to an area where there is at least one PHA administering a voucher program [24 CFR 982.353(b)].

If there is more than one such PHA, the initial PHA provides the family with the contact information for the receiving PHAs and the family chooses the receiving PHA. The family must inform the initial PHA which PHA it has selected as the receiving PHA. In cases where the family prefers not to select the receiving PHA, the initial PHA selects the receiving PHA on behalf of the family. [24 CFR 982.355(b)].

Applicant families that have been issued vouchers as well as participant families may qualify to lease a unit outside MSHDA's jurisdiction under portability. The initial PHA, in accordance with HUD regulations and PHA Policy, determines whether a family qualifies.

The initial PHA must administer Special Purpose Vouchers (SPVs) in accordance with HUD established policy in cases where HUD has established alternative program requirements of such SPVs [24 CFR 982.355(g)].

The PHA may deny permission to move if the PHA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance. The PHA must provide written notification to the local HUD Office within 10 business days of determining it is necessary to deny moves to higher-cost unit based on insufficient funding [24 CFR 982.354(e)(1)].

Applicant Families

Under HUD regulations, most applicant families qualify to lease a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability. However, HUD gives the PHA discretion to deny a portability

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move by an applicant family for the same two reasons that it may deny any move by a participant family: insufficient funding and grounds for denial or termination of assistance.

MSHDA Policy

In determining whether or not to deny an applicant family permission to move under portability because MSHDA lacks sufficient funding or has grounds for denying assistance to the family, the initial PHA will follow the policies established in section 10-I.B of this chapter.

In addition, the PHA may establish a policy denying the right to portability to nonresident applicants during the first 12 months after they are admitted to the program [24 CFR 982.353(c)].

MSHDA Policy

If neither the head of household nor the spouse/co-head of an applicant family had a domicile (legal residence) in MSHDA's jurisdiction at the time the family's application for assistance was submitted, the family must live in MSHDA's jurisdiction with voucher assistance for at least 12 months before requesting portability.

MSHDA will consider exceptions to this policy for purposes of reasonable accommodation (see Chapter 2). However, any exception to this policy is subject to the approval of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.353(c)(3)].

Participant Families

The initial PHA must not provide portable assistance for a participant if a family has moved out of its assisted unit in violation of the lease [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. VAWA creates an exception to this prohibition for families who are otherwise in compliance with program obligations but have moved to protect the health or safety of an individual who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking and who reasonably believed he or she was imminently threatened by harm from further violence if they remained in the unit [24 CFR 982.353(b)].

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will determine whether a participant family may move out of MSHDA's jurisdiction with continued assistance in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth here and in sections 10-I.A and 10-I.B of this chapter. MSHDA will notify the family of its determination in accordance with the approval policy set forth in section 10-I.C of this chapter.

A HCV participant family qualifies to port to another PHA when MSHDA verifies:

- 1) The participant family must be active on the HCV Program with MSHDA for at least 12 months prior to exercising portability rights. If the outgoing portability participant has not been on the HCV program with MSHDA for at least 12 months, the participant is ineligible to port.
- 2) The participant family has maintained good standing with MSHDA.
- 3) The participant family is current on their payments toward any MSHDA repayment agreement or that there is a \$0 balance for any accounts receivable debt. If the participant is not current on their repayment agreement or if they have an accounts

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receivable debt owed, the participant cannot relocate with continued MSHDA assistance. Current on a repayment agreement is defined as having an executed repayment agreement and a minimum of four (4) consecutive months paid in full and on time.

- 4) If the participant is behind on a repayment agreement or they owe an accounts receivable debt, the balance owed must be paid in full and good standing for being current on payments must be met before the portability process can be initiated.
- 5) All adult members pass criminal/sex offender screening requirements (see Chapter 3).

If the above criteria are met, the participant may port outside MSHDA's jurisdiction. If the above criteria are not met, the participant must stay in their current county until they meet the eligibility requirements; and/or be terminated from the program if the criminal screening revealed a crime for which a participant must be terminated.

Determining Income Eligibility

Applicant Families

An applicant family may lease a unit in a particular area under portability only if the family is income eligible for admission to the voucher program in that area [24 CFR 982.353(d)(3)]. The family must specify the area to which the family wishes to move [Notice 2008-43].

The initial PHA is responsible for determining whether the family is income eligible in the area to which the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.355(c)(1)]. If the applicant family is not income eligible in that area, the PHA must inform the family that it may not move there and receive voucher assistance [Notice PIH 2008-43].

Participant Families

The income eligibility of a participant family is not redetermined if the family moves to a new jurisdiction under portability [24 CFR 982.353(d)(2)].

Reexamination of Family Income and Composition

No new reexamination of family income and composition is required for an applicant family.

MSHDA Policy

For a participant family approved to move out of its jurisdiction under portability, MSHDA generally will conduct a reexamination of family income and composition only if the family's annual reexamination must be completed on or before the initial billing deadline specified on form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information.

MSHDA will make any exceptions to this policy necessary to remain in compliance with HUD regulations.

Briefing

The regulations and policies on briefings set forth in Chapter 5 of this plan require MSHDA to provide information on portability to all applicant families that qualify to lease a unit outside MSHDA's jurisdiction under the portability procedures. Therefore, no special briefing is required for these families. [24 CFR 982.301]

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MSHDA Policy

No formal briefing will be required for a participant family wishing to move outside MSHDA's jurisdiction under portability. However, MSHDA will provide the family with the same oral and written explanation of portability that it provides to applicant families selected for admission to the program (see Chapter 5). MSHDA will provide the name, address, and phone of the contact for the PHA in the jurisdiction to which they wish to move. MSHDA will provide the family with information on how portability may affect their assistance with the RPHA through rescreening, changes, in subsidy standards and payment standards, policies and procedures, voucher extension policies, and any other elements that may affect the family's assistance.

Voucher Issuance and Term

An applicant family has no right to portability until after the family has been issued a voucher [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. In issuing vouchers to applicant families, the PHA will follow the regulations and procedures set forth in Chapter 5. A new voucher is not required for portability purposes.

MSHDA Policy

For families approved to move under portability, MSHDA will issue a new voucher within 10 business days of MSHDA's written approval to move.

The initial term of the voucher will be 60 days.

Voucher Extensions and Expiration

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will approve **no** extensions to a voucher issued to an applicant or participant family porting out of MSHDA's jurisdiction except under the following circumstances: (a) the initial term of the voucher will expire before the portable family will be issued a voucher by the receiving PHA, (b) the family decides to return to the initial PHA's jurisdiction and search for a unit there, or (c) the family decides to search for a unit in a third PHA's jurisdiction. In such cases, the policies on voucher extensions set forth in Chapter 5, section 5-II.E, of this plan will apply, including the requirement that the family apply for an extension in writing prior to the expiration of the initial voucher term.

To receive or continue receiving assistance under the initial PHA's voucher program, a family that moves to another PHA's jurisdiction under portability must be under HAP contract in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction within 60 days following the expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher term (including any extensions). (See below under "Initial Billing Deadline" for one exception to this policy.)

Initial Contact with the Receiving PHA

Prior to approving a family's request to move under portability, the IPHA must contact the RPHA to determine if the receiving PHA will bill or absorb. The RPHA must respond to the initial request for information in writing [24 CFR 982.355(c)(3)]. After approving a family's request to move under portability, the initial PHA must promptly notify the receiving PHA to expect the family [24 CFR 982.355(c)(2)]. This means that the initial PHA must contact the receiving PHA directly on the family's behalf [Notice PIH 2008-43]. The initial PHA must also

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advise the family how to contact and request assistance from the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(c)(2)].

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will obtain the necessary information from the RPHA before the portability process is initiated. MSHDA will notify the RPHA of any Special Purpose Voucher considerations that must be made prior to portability approval. After approval of portability, MSHDA will contact the receiving PHA by phone, fax, or e-mail to expect the family. The initial PHA will also ask the receiving PHA to provide any information the family may need upon arrival, including the name, fax, e-mail and telephone number of the staff person responsible for business with incoming portable families and procedures related to appointments for voucher issuance. MSHDA will pass this information along to the family. MSHDA will also ask for the name, address, telephone number, fax and e-mail of the person responsible for processing the billing information.

Sending Documentation to the Receiving PHA

The initial PHA is required to send the receiving PHA the following documents:

- Form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information, with Part I filled out [24 CFR 982.355(c)(7)]
- A copy of the family's voucher [Notice PIH 2008-43]
- A copy of the family's most recent form HUD-50058, Family Report, or, if necessary in the case of an applicant family, family and income information in a format similar to that of form HUD-50058 [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4), Notice PIH 2008-43]
 - The HUD-50058 must include any required Special Purpose Voucher (SPV) codes, if applicable [24 CFR 982.355(g)].
- Copies of the income verifications backing up the form HUD-50058, including a copy of the family's current EIV data [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4), Notice PIH 2008-43]

MSHDA Policy

In addition to these documents, MSHDA will provide the following information, if available, to the receiving PHA:

Social security numbers (SSNs)

Documentation of SSNs for all nonexempt household members whose SSNs have not been verified through the EIV system

Documentation of legal identity

Documentation of citizenship or eligible immigration status

Documentation of participation in the earned income disallowance (EID) benefit

Documentation of participation in a family self-sufficiency (FSS) program

MSHDA will notify the family in writing regarding any information provided to the receiving PHA [HCV GB, p. 13-3].

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Initial Billing Deadline [Notice PIH 2008-43]

When the initial PHA sends form HUD-52665 to the receiving PHA, it specifies in Part I the deadline by which it must receive the initial billing notice from the receiving PHA. This deadline is 90 days following the expiration date of the voucher issued to the family by the initial PHA. If the initial PHA does not receive a billing notice by the deadline and does not intend to honor a late billing submission, it must contact the receiving PHA to determine the status of the family. If the receiving PHA reports that the family is not yet under HAP contract, the initial PHA may refuse to accept a late billing submission. If the receiving PHA reports that the family is under HAP contract and the receiving PHA cannot absorb the family, the initial PHA must accept a late billing submission; however, it may report to HUD the receiving PHA's failure to comply with the deadline.

MSHDA Policy

If MSHDA has not received an initial billing notice from the receiving PHA by the deadline specified on form HUD-52665, it will contact the receiving PHA by phone, fax, or e-mail on the next business day. If the receiving PHA reports that the family is not yet under HAP contract, MSHDA will inform the receiving PHA that it will not honor a late billing submission and will return any subsequent billings that it receives on behalf of the family. MSHDA will send the receiving PHA a written confirmation of its decision by mail.

MSHDA will allow an exception to this policy if the family includes a person with disabilities and the late billing is a result of a reasonable accommodation granted to the family by the receiving PHA.

Monthly Billing Payments [24 CFR 982.355(e), Notice PIH 2008-43]

If the receiving PHA is administering the family's voucher, the initial PHA is responsible for making billing payments in a timely manner. The first billing amount is due within 30 calendar days after the initial PHA receives Part II of form HUD-52665 from the receiving PHA. Subsequent payments must be **received** by the receiving PHA no later than the fifth business day of each month. The payments must be provided in a form and manner that the receiving PHA is able and willing to accept.

The initial PHA may not terminate or delay making payments under existing portability billing arrangements as a result of over-leasing or funding shortfalls. MSHDA must manage its tenant-based program in a manner that ensures that it has the financial ability to provide assistance for families that move out of its jurisdiction under portability and are not absorbed by receiving PHAs as well as for families that remain within its jurisdiction.

MSHDA Policy

The initial PHA will utilize direct deposit to ensure that the payment is received by the deadline unless the receiving PHA notifies the initial PHA that direct deposit is not acceptable to them.

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Annual Updates of Form HUD-50058

If the initial PHA is being billed on behalf of a portable family, it should receive an updated form HUD-50058 each year from the receiving PHA. If the initial PHA fails to receive an updated 50058 by the family's annual reexamination date, the initial PHA should contact the receiving PHA to verify the status of the family.

Denial or Termination of Assistance [24 CFR 982.355(c)(9)]

If the initial PHA has grounds for denying or terminating assistance for a portable family that has not been absorbed by the receiving PHA, the initial PHA may act on those grounds at any time. (For PHA policies on denial and termination, see Chapters 3 and 12, respectively.)

10-II.C. RECEIVING PHA ROLE

If a family has a right to lease a unit in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction under portability, the receiving PHA must provide assistance for the family [24 CFR 982.355(10)].

The receiving PHA's procedures and preferences for selection among eligible applicants do not apply, and the receiving PHA's waiting list is not used [24 CFR 982.355(10)]. However, the family's unit, or voucher, size is determined in accordance with the subsidy standards of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(7)], and the amount of the family's housing assistance payment is determined in the same manner as for other families in the receiving PHA's voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(e)(2)].

Initial Contact with Family

When a family moves into MSHDA's jurisdiction under portability, the family is responsible for promptly contacting MSHDA and complying with MSHDA's procedures for incoming portable families [24 CFR 982.355(c)(3)].

Administration of the ported voucher must be in accordance with the receiving PHA's policies [24 CFR 982.355(c)(10)].

If the voucher issued to the family by the initial PHA has expired, the receiving PHA does not process the family's paperwork but instead refers the family back to the initial PHA [Notice PIH 2008-43].

When a portable family requests assistance from the receiving PHA, the receiving PHA must promptly inform the initial PHA whether the receiving PHA will bill the initial PHA for assistance on behalf of the portable family or will absorb the family into its own program [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4)]. If the receiving PHA notifies the initial PHA that it will absorb the voucher, it cannot reverse its decision at a later date without consent of the initial PHA [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4)]. If the PHA bills the initial PHA for the family's assistance, it may later decide to absorb the family into its own program [Notice PIH 2008-43]. (See "Absorbing a Portable Family" contained later in this section for more on this topic.)

MSHDA Policy

Within 10 business days after a portable family requests assistance, the receiving PHA will notify the initial PHA whether it intends to bill the receiving PHA on behalf of the portable family or absorb the family into its own program.

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A receiving PHA cannot refuse to assist incoming portability families or direct them to another neighboring PHA for assistance. HUD may determine in certain instances that a PHA is not required to accept incoming portable families, such as a PHA is declared a disaster area. However, the PHA must have approval in writing from HUD before refusing any incoming portable families [24 CFR 982.355(b)]. If for any reason the receiving PHA refuses to process or provide assistance to a family under the portability procedures, the family must be given the opportunity for an informal review or hearing [Notice PIH 2008-43]. (For more on this topic, see “Denial or Termination of Assistance” contained later in this section.)

Briefing

HUD allows the receiving PHA to require a briefing for an incoming portable family as long as the requirement does not unduly delay the family’s search [Notice PIH 2008-43].

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will not require the family to attend a briefing. MSHDA will provide the family with a briefing packet (as described in Chapter 5) and, in an individual briefing, will orally inform the family about MSHDA’s payment and subsidy standards, procedures for requesting approval of a unit, the unit inspection process, and the leasing process. MSHDA will suggest that the family attend a full briefing at a later date.

Income Eligibility and Reexamination

HUD allows the receiving PHA to conduct its own income reexamination of a portable family [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4)]. However, the receiving PHA may not delay voucher issuance or unit approval until the reexamination process is complete unless the reexamination is necessary to determine that an applicant family is income eligible for admission to the program in the area where the family wishes to lease a unit [Notice PIH 2008-43, 24 CFR 982.201(b)(4)]. The receiving PHA does not redetermine income eligibility for a portable family that was already receiving assistance (participant family) in the initial PHA’s voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(c)(1)].

MSHDA Policy

For any family moving into its jurisdiction under portability, MSHDA will accept verifications from the initial PHA to the extent that they accurately reflect the family’s current circumstances. MSHDA will retain the upcoming AR date indicated on the 50058.

Circumstances under which MSHDA must obtain new verifications:

- MSHDA cannot otherwise confirm that the applicant family is income eligible for admission to the program in the area where the unit is located.
- The participant family has a change in income or household composition. If a comparison of the MSHDA 1890 to the 50058 provided by the IPHA shows discrepancies, new verifications will be required.

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Voucher Issuance

When a family moves into its jurisdiction under portability, the receiving PHA is required to issue the family a voucher [24 CFR 982.355(b)(6)]. The family must submit a request for tenancy approval to the receiving PHA during the term of the receiving PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(6)].

Timing of Voucher Issuance

HUD expects the receiving PHA to issue the voucher within two weeks after receiving the family's paperwork from the initial PHA if the information is in order, the family has contacted the receiving PHA, and the family complies with the receiving PHA's procedures [Notice PIH 2008-43]. The receiving PHA must contact the initial PHA if the family's voucher expires before the family arrives at the receiving PHA to determine whether the initial PHA will extend the voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(13)].

MSHDA Policy

When a family ports into its jurisdiction, MSHDA will issue the family a voucher based on the paperwork provided by the initial PHA unless the family's paperwork from the initial PHA is incomplete, the family's voucher from the initial PHA has expired, or the family does not comply with MSHDA's procedures. If the voucher is expired before the family arrives at MSHDA, MSHDA will contact the initial PHA to request an extension. If granted, MSHDA will assist the family within the voucher timeframe. If the extension is denied, MSHDA will return the family to the IPHA. MSHDA will update the family's information when verification has been completed.

Voucher Term

The receiving PHA must issue a voucher to the ported family that does not expire before 30 calendar days from the expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(13)].

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will issue the voucher to the ported family to match the initial PHA's voucher terms. The expiration date will match the initial PHA's voucher and will take into account any previous extensions and/or suspensions of the voucher term.

Mandatory Voucher Term Suspension [24 CFR 982.982.4, 24 CFR 982.303(c)]

PHAs must suspend the term of the voucher. Suspension starts when the family submits a request for tenancy approval and ends when the PHA notifies the family in writing whether the request has been approved or denied.

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will follow the voucher term suspension policy for all moves within the PHA's jurisdiction. The suspension of the voucher will begin when a RFTA is submitted and will end when the family has been notified in writing whether the request has been approved or denied.

Voucher Extensions [24 CFR 982.355(c)(6), Notice 2008-43]

The receiving PHA may provide additional search time to the family beyond the expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher; however, if it does so, it must notify the initial PHA of any

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extensions granted to the term of the voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(14)]. It must also bear in mind the billing deadline provided by the initial PHA. Unless willing and able to absorb the family, the receiving PHA should ensure that any voucher expiration date would leave sufficient time to process a request for tenancy approval, execute a HAP contract, and deliver the initial billing to the initial PHA.

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA generally will not extend the term of the voucher that it issues to an incoming portable family unless MSHDA plans to absorb the family into its own program, in which case it will follow the policies on voucher extension set forth in section 5-II.E.

MSHDA will consider an exception to this policy as a reasonable accommodation to a person with disabilities (see Chapter 2).

Notifying the Initial PHA

The receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA if the family has leased an eligible unit under the program or if the family fails to submit a request for tenancy approval for an eligible unit within the term of the receiving PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(8)]. The receiving PHA is required to use Part II of form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information, for this purpose [24 CFR 982.355(e)(5), Notice PIH 2008-43]. (For more on this topic and the deadline for notification, see below under "Administering a Portable Family's Voucher.")

If an incoming portable family ultimately decides not to lease in the jurisdiction of the receiving PHA but instead wishes to return to the initial PHA's jurisdiction or to search in another jurisdiction, the receiving PHA must refer the family back to the initial PHA. In such a case the voucher of record for the family is once again the voucher originally issued by the initial PHA. Any extension of search time provided by the receiving PHA's voucher is only valid for the family's search in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction [Notice PIH 2008-43].

Administering a Portable Family's Voucher

The receiving PHA must administer Special Purpose Vouchers (SPVs) in accordance with HUD established policy in cases where HUD has established alternative program requirements of such SPVs [24 CFR 982.355(g)].

Initial Billing Deadline

If a portable family's search for a unit is successful and the receiving PHA intends to administer the family's voucher, the receiving PHA must submit its initial billing notice (Part II of form HUD-52665) (a) no later than 10 business days following the date the receiving PHA **executes** a HAP contract on behalf of the family **and** (b) in time that the notice will be **received** no later than 60 days following the expiration date of the family's voucher issued by the initial PHA [Notice PIH 2008-43]. A copy of the family's form HUD-50058, Family Report, completed by the receiving PHA must be attached to the initial billing notice. The HUD-50058 must include any required Special Purpose Voucher (SPV) codes, if applicable [24 CFR 982.355(g)]. The receiving PHA may send these documents by mail, fax, or e-mail.

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MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will send its initial billing notice by fax or e-mail, if necessary, to meet the billing deadline but will also send the notice by regular mail.

If the receiving PHA fails to send the initial billing within 10 business days following the date the HAP contract is executed, it is required to absorb the family into its own program unless (a) the initial PHA is willing to accept the late submission or (b) HUD requires the initial PHA to honor the late submission (e.g., because the receiving PHA is overleased) [Notice PIH 2008-43].

Ongoing Notification Responsibilities [Notice PIH 2008-43, HUD-52665]

Annual Reexamination. The receiving PHA must send the initial PHA a copy of a portable family's updated form HUD-50058 after each annual reexamination for the duration of time the receiving PHA is billing the initial PHA on behalf of the family, regardless of whether there is a change in the billing amount.

MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will send a copy of the updated HUD-50058 by regular mail at the same time MSHDA and owner are notified of the reexamination results.

Change in Billing Amount. The receiving PHA is required to notify the initial PHA, using form HUD-52665, of any change in the billing amount for the family as a result of:

- A change in the HAP amount (because of a reexamination, a change in the applicable payment standard, a move to another unit, etc.)
- An abatement or subsequent resumption of the HAP payments
- Termination of the HAP contract
- Payment of a damage/vacancy loss claim for the family
- Termination of the family from the program

The timing of the notice of the change in the billing amount should correspond with the notification to the owner and the family in order to provide the initial PHA with advance notice of the change. Under no circumstances should the notification be later than 10 business days following the effective date of the change in the billing amount. If the receiving PHA fails to send Form HUD-52665 within 10 days of effective date of billing changes, the initial PHA is not responsible for any increase prior to notification.

Late Payments [Notice PIH 2008-43]

If the initial PHA fails to make a monthly payment for a portable family by the fifth business day of the month, the receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA in writing of the deficiency. The notice must identify the family, the amount of the billing payment, the date the billing payment was due, and the date the billing payment was received (if it arrived late). The receiving PHA must send a copy of the notification to the Office of Public Housing (OPH) in the HUD area office with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA. If the initial PHA fails to correct the problem by the second month following the notification, the receiving PHA may request by memorandum to the director of the OPH with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA that HUD transfer the unit in question. A copy of the initial notification and any subsequent

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correspondence between the PHAs on the matter must be attached. The receiving PHA must send a copy of the memorandum to the initial PHA. If the OPH decides to grant the transfer, the billing arrangement on behalf of the family ceases with the transfer, but the initial PHA is still responsible for any outstanding payments due to the receiving PHA.

Overpayments [Notice PIH 2008-43]

In all cases where the receiving PHA has received billing payments for billing arrangements no longer in effect, the receiving PHA is responsible for returning the full amount of the overpayment (including the portion provided for administrative fees) to the initial PHA.

In the event that HUD determines billing payments have continued for at least three months because the receiving PHA failed to notify the initial PHA that the billing arrangement was terminated, the receiving PHA must take the following steps:

- Return the full amount of the overpayment, including the portion provided for administrative fees, to the initial PHA.
- Once full payment has been returned, notify the Office of Public Housing in the HUD area office with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA of the date and the amount of reimbursement to the initial PHA.

At HUD's discretion, the receiving PHA will be subject to the sanctions spelled out in Notice PIH 2008-43.

Denial or Termination of Assistance

At any time, the receiving PHA may make a determination to deny or terminate assistance to a portable family for family action or inaction [24 CFR 982.355(c)(9), 24 CFR 982.355(c)(10)].

In the case of a termination, the PHA should provide adequate notice of the effective date to the initial PHA to avoid having to return a payment. In no event should the receiving PHA fail to notify the initial PHA later than 10 business days following the effective date of the termination of the billing arrangement [Notice PIH 2008-43].

MSHDA Policy

If MSHDA elects to deny or terminate assistance for a portable family, MSHDA will notify the initial PHA within 10 business days after the informal review or hearing if the denial or termination is upheld. MSHDA will base its denial or termination decision on the policies set forth in Chapter 3 or Chapter 12, respectively. The informal review or hearing will be held in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16. The receiving PHA will furnish the initial PHA with a copy of the review or hearing decision.

Absorbing a Portable Family

The receiving PHA may absorb an incoming portable family into its own program when the PHA executes a HAP contract on behalf of the family or at any time thereafter providing that (a) the PHA has funding available under its annual contributions contract (ACC) and (b) absorbing the family will not result in overleasing [24 CFR 982.355(d)(1), Notice PIH 2008-43].

If the receiving PHA absorbs a family from the point of admission, the admission will be counted against the income targeting obligation of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.201(b)(2)(vii)].

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If the receiving PHA absorbs a family after providing assistance for the family under a billing arrangement with the initial PHA, HUD encourages the receiving PHA to provide adequate advance notice to the initial PHA to avoid having to return an overpayment. The receiving PHA must specify the effective date of the absorption of the family [Notice PIH 2008-43].

MSHDA Policy

If MSHDA decides to absorb a portable family upon the execution of a HAP contract on behalf of the family, MSHDA will notify the initial PHA by the initial billing deadline specified on form HUD-52665. The effective date of the HAP contract will be the effective date of the absorption.

If MSHDA decides to absorb a family after that, it will provide the initial PHA with 30 days' advance notice.

Following the absorption of an incoming portable family, the family is assisted with funds available under the consolidated ACC for the receiving PHA's voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(d)], and the receiving PHA becomes the initial PHA in any subsequent moves by the family under portability.